

the family Belonidae as it is currently constituted and recognized (see Collette and Berry, 1965, p. 387).

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A HUGE PLEISTOCENE BOX TURTLE FROM TEXAS

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A CAST recently submitted to me for study by Bob H. Slaughter of the Shuler Museum of Paleontology of Southern Methodist University represents to my knowledge the largest record of a complete plastron of the genus *Terrapene*. The original specimen was collected from the Lewisville site of the basal Upper Shuler member of the Pemberton Hill-Lewisville terrace of the Trinity River (Elm Fork) in southern Denton County, Texas. This site, thought to be of Sangamon age, has recently been discussed by Crook and Harris (1957), and by Slaughter (1961). I should like to thank Mr. Slaughter for the opportunity to study and report on the cast that he prepared.

The fossil plastron has its posterior lobe deeply concave and thus represents a male box turtle. The general shape is quite similar to that of plastra of living *Terrapene carolina*, and the impressions of the seams of the epidermal laminae (terminology of Carr, 1952) indicate the shapes of these laminae were quite similar in the fossil and in the living species. Figure 1 shows the cast of the fossil along side a large adult male *Terrapene carolina carolina* from Macoupin County, Illinois. The fossil is about twice as long as the recent specimen and must have had a magnitude of about eight times that of the modern animal. Measurements of the cast are as follows: median length of plastron 269; median length of anterior plastral lobe 100; median length of posterior plastral lobe 169; greatest width of anterior plastral lobe 141; greatest width of posterior plastral lobe 160 mm.

Adhering to the anterior lobe of the plastron of the fossil is the proximal part of the left femur of a fossil box turtle. In consideration of its huge size, this femur probably belongs to the same individual as the plastron. Measurements of the fossil femur are as follows: greatest height of proximal end of femur through head and trochanter major (terminology of Romer, 1956) 21.6; greatest length of intertrochanteric fossa 10.3 mm.

In a study of Florida Pleistocene box turtles Auffenberg (1958) relegates many forms to the synonymy of *Terrapene carolina*. He believes only two kinds of box turtles existed in the Florida Pleistocene, a small form representing the modern *T. c. carolina*

or *T. c. bauri* or both, and a large extinct subspecies, which he calls *T. c. putnami*. Two extinct species as well as *T. carolina* and *T. ornata* are currently recorded from the Pleistocene of Texas (Hay, 1908; Milstead, 1956; Holman, 1963), but, unfortunately,

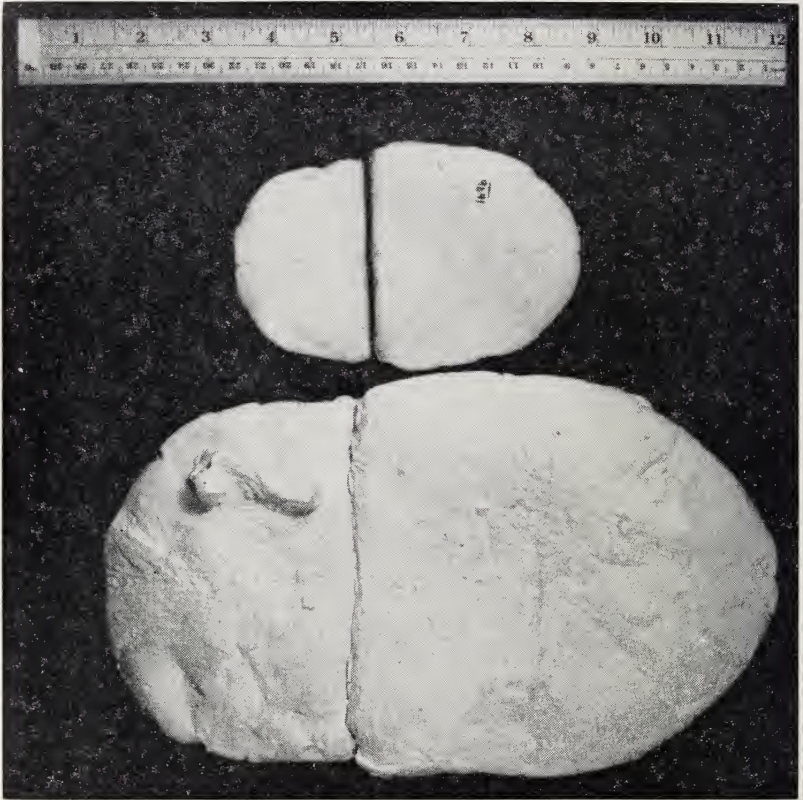


Fig. 1. Cast of plastron of *Terrapene* sp. (bottom) from the Pleistocene (Sangamon) of the Lewisville site of Denton County, Texas, and plastron of a recent adult male *Terrapene carolina carolina* (top) from Macoupin County, Illinois.

a comprehensive study of Texas Pleistocene box turtles has not been made, nor are the relationships of the Texas turtles to the Florida forms well understood. Nevertheless, on the basis of subjective characters I cannot distinguish the Lewisville plastron from recent *Terrapene carolina* plastra at hand, and the Lewisville turtle is larger than the largest recorded Texas form and approaches